(b) if so, the steps taken or being contemplated by the Government to rectify the situation.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The import restricting measures taken by RBI since March, 1991 have, inter-*alia*, also had an effect on the diamond industry in arranging remittances for the imports of rough diamonds. However, despite this, according to the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, exports of gem Jewellery in the period April to September 1991 have previous year.

(b) some relaxations in margin money requirements have been made for exporters. Diamond exporters have been permitted to open dollar accounts and to mobilise credits abroad to finance import of rough diamonds.

Expenditure on Litigation by BIC Ltd. Kanpur

371. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES to be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expenditure on litigation has increased tremendously in B.I.C. Limited, Kanpur for the past seven months;

(b) if so, the details of expenditure incurred by the company during the above period and also the comparative figures of expenditure on litigation incurred during the same period in the past two years;

(c) whether the Government have directed the company to reduce the cost of expenditure so that the cashflow may not be adversely affected and industrial production reduced as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir. The expenditure this year is substantially lower than corresponding period of last year.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Development of National Highways in Bihar

372. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals for the development of National Highways submitted by the Bihar Government to the Union Government during last three years;

(b) the details of proposals approved by the Union Government and the amount sanctioned therefor;

(c) the reasons for not approving the remaining proposals;

(d) whether the construction work of any sanctioned project is being delayed; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Bihar Government had submitted 83 nos. of proposals for Road/Bridge works to the Union Government for the development of National Highways during the last three years viz 1988-89 to 1990-90. Out of these, 78 nos. of proposals amounting to Rs. 5075.312 lakhs were approved by the Union Government.

(c) As regards the balance five proposals, three proposals were sanctioned subse-

quently. Two were returned to State Government for modification of the estimates.

(d) and (e). Execution of some of the sanctioned works in Bihar is getting delayed due to a combination of reasons, including strikes, lack of suitable contractors, delay in land acquisition etc.

Opening of more Branches of Nationalised Banks in Bihar

373. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks in the rural areas of Patna, Rohtas and Bhojpur districts of Bihar;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more branches in the rural areas of these districts;

(c) if so, the names of places where these branches are proposed to be opened; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The number of branches of Public Sector Banks in the rural areas of Patna, Rohtas and Bhojpur Districts of Bihar as on 30.6.1991 are given below:-

Districts	*Number of Branches*
Patna	103
Rohtas	68
Bhojpur	56

(b) to (d). Under the extant policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for opening of branches in rural areas, the list of identified centres with necessary particulars in each District has to be given to the lead bank of that District. The lead bank after consolidating the list received from all banks submits it to the District Collectors for recommendations and onward transmission to RBI through the concerned State Government. Under the Branch Licensing Policy (1990-95), opening of branches of Public Sector Banks is a continuous processand hence it is not possible to project the number of branches that will be opened in the rural areas of these Districts.

Bank Loans to Farmers In Bihar and Orissa

374. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans given by the scheduled banks to the framers in Bihar and Orissa during the last three years; districtwise; and

(b) the amount of loans recovered during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported the amount of direct agricultural loans disbursed by all scheduled commercial banks to farmers (excluding those for allied activities) during the last three years ending June 1987, June 1988 and June 1989 (latest available) in the State of Bihar and Orissa as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year ended June	*Bihar*	*Orissa*
1987	68.0	47.4
1968	83.2	48.8
1989	99.5	58.2